

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 02087 062231Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-02 SCA-01 VO-01

DRC-01 /057 W

----- 056175

P R 062130Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7308

INFO COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

JCS/DOD/ISA WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

COMCARIBSEAFRON ROOSEVELT RDS PR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2087

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN "REFUGEES" AT GUANTANAMO

REF: P-AU-P 2074, 2080, AND 1016; STATE 119983;

PORT-AU-PRINCE OM'S OF SEPT. 17, 1973 AND OCT. 19, 1973

1. THE NINETEEN HAITIANS WHO LANDED AT GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE, CUBA, ON DECEMBER 4 WERE INTERVIEWED BY AN OFFICER OF THE EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 5 TO DETERMINE THEIR REASONS FOR LEAVING HAITI AND FOR LANDING AT GUANTANAMO. EACH OF THE HAITIANS WAS INTERVIEWED SEPARATELY IN CREOLE.

2. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF THE HAITIANS GAVE CONFLICTING STORIES, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE GROUP SET OUT FROM LEOGANE, A TOWN ABOUT 25 MILES WEST OF PORT-AU-PRINCE ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29 AT ABOUT 7:00 P.M. THEY SPENT ABOUT 5 DAYS AT SEA AND ENCOUNTERED HIGH WINDS, RAIN AND HEAVY SEAS. THEY LANDED AT GUANTANAMO AT ABOUT 7:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 4. THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT A 02087 062231Z

CAPTAIN OF THE BOAT CLAIMED THAT THEY PUT IN AT GUANTANAMO

TO SEEK HELP AFTER A PARTICULARLY ROUGH VOYAGE. THEIR LANDING AT GUANTANAMO DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PRE-ARRANGED.

3. ALL NINETEEN HAITIANS CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE ORIGINALLY BOUND FOR MIAMI. THEY CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE EXTREME POVERTY OF LIFE IN HAITI AND THE LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. THEY ALL HOPED TO FIND JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO SEND MONEY BACK TO THEIR RELATIVES. MOST OF THE NINETEEN HAD WITH THEM THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF FRIENDS OR RELATIVES THEY HOPED TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES. EIGHTEEN CLAIMED NEVER TO HAVE APPLIED FOR HAITIAN PASSPORTS. ONE PASSENGER WAS IN POSSESSION OF AN EXPIRED PASSPORT. ALL DISCLAIMED ANY PREVIOUS APPLICATION FOR A U.S. VISA.

4. NONE OF THE HAITIANS CLAIMED TO HAVE HAD ANY PRIOR RECORD OF ARREST IN HAITI OR ANY RECORD OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION. SEVERAL OF THEM WERE QUITE EMPHATIC IN THEIR DENIALS OF ANY RUN-INS WITH HAITIAN AUTHORITIES. THE FEMALE PASSENGER WENT SO FAR AS TO SPECIFY THAT SHE HAD LEFT SOLELY TO FIND A JOB AND NOT BECAUSE SHE HAD EVER HAD ANY POLITICAL TROUBLE IN HAITI.

5. A CHECK OF BOTH THE POLITICAL/BIO AND CONSULAR FILES REVEALED NO RECORD FOR ANY OF THE NINETEEN HAITIANS. A LIST OF NAMES AND DATES AND PLACES OF BIRTH FOLLOWS:

ANDRE NICOLAS LAROSE ORIENTAL - 30 AUG 39 - LEOGANE
RAYMOND ALFRED - 8 AUG 47 - LEOGANE
CARMELO FRANCOIS - 8 APRIL 51 (OR 2 APRIL 51) - P-AU-P
JULUS DAVANEL LALOI - 7 MAY 53 - LEOGANE
FRITZ GUERIER - 7 MAY 53 (OR 7 SEPT 53) - P-AU-P
MAURICE JOBOAM - 25 JULY 27 - LEOGANE
PROSPERE ST. FORT - 23 APRIL 21 - LEOGANE
YVES AMILCAR - 14 MAY 53 - LEOGANE
ADAM BOULIN - 29 AUG 51 - P-AU-P
JEDEON FORESTE - 6 NOV 51 - P-AU-P
MOLES GERMAIN - 28 AUG 44 (OR 22 AUG 53) - LEOGANE
FRANKEL VOLMA - 13 FEB 49 - LEOGANE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT A 02087 062231Z

NAITIL MARCELIN - 4 APRIL 52 - LEOGANE
CANEZ AMILCAR - 4 MAY 47 - LEOGANE
WILLY BASILE - 4 JAN 43 - LEOGANE
JACKSON FERDINAND - 26 DEC 43 -(OR 29 NOV 43) CAP HAITIEN
CHRISTIAN OCEAN - 25 APR 49 - LEOGANE
JEAN LOUIS DERASTEL - 4 JAN 48 (OR 22 JAN 48) - LEOGANE
CLEMANTINE FELIX - 22 MAR 51 - LEOGANE

6. IN THE JUNE 1973 INCIDENT INVOLVING FOUR HAITIANS WHO LANDED AT GUANTANAMO, THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED THE ASSURANCES OF GOH THAT THE FOUR COULD RETURN TO HAITI WITHOUT INCURRING ANY PENALTY (SEE P-AU-P 1016). UPON THEIR RETURN TO HAITI, THE FOUR WERE DETAINED FOR SOME TIME AT CASSERNESS DESSALINES, NOT FOR POLITICAL REASONS BUT BECAUSE THEY HAD LEFT HAITI WITHOUT PASSPORTS (SEE OM SENT S/R:ORM OF SEPT. 17, 1973). THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AND ARE STILL AT LIBERTY (SEE OM SENT S/R:ORM OF OCT. 19, 1973).

7. ACTION: PLEASE INSTRUCT THE EMBASSY ON APPROACH TO GOH.
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Message Attributes

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